

Houston Habitat for Humanity
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2012 Accomplishments

Houston Habitat for Humanity's Accomplishment's for 2012

- We built 34 Energy Star Certified homes with a HERS rating between 61 and 18
- All homes are built to EPA airPlus and WaterSense guidelines
- With the help of the City of Houston we were able to add a 5kW solar panel system to 12 of our homes giving us a HERS 18 for those homes
- We have reduced our home owner's electric utility payments from an average of \$110 a month for a home built to 2011 standards with a HERS of 69 to an average of \$35 a month home with a 5 kw solar array and a HERS of 18.
- CenterPoint Energy in Houston, TX estimates that Houston Habitat homeowners will save over 69,144 kWh's.
- This was a reduction of 27,222 kilograms of CO2
- We have increase the disposable income of our home owners by \$3000.00 per year. This is significant due to their total income being \$35,000/year.

Cumulative Accomplishments

Houston Habitat Energy Star 2007 to 2012 Programs		
Item	Total	Cumulative Impact
Homes	296	Energy Star Certified Homes
kWh	293,559	kWh Reduced
CO2	336,712	CO2 lbs. Averted
HERS	25 points	83 to 58 Home Efficiency
HERS w/Solar	65 points	83 to 18 Home Efficiency
Savings	\$41,098.26	Savings @ \$0.14/kWh

Required Criteria

Demonstrated Success

Houston Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian ministry that relies solely on donations to build our homes. We have built as many as 130 Energy Star certified homes in 1 year. In 2012 we were able to raise the money to build 34 homes, all of which were Energy Star certified. We build single family homes.

In 2012 we reduced our HERS score from 69 to 18 for a 1300 sqft brick sided home with a 5kW solar panel system installed on the roof. This represented a reduction in our home owner's average monthly electric utility bill from \$110 to \$35. Our average electric bill for a home without a solar panel system was reduced to \$75 per month.

According to CenterPoint Energy, Houston, TX, in 2012 our homes saved a total of 69,144 kWh's. That is about 27,222 lbs. of CO2 averted from the environment.

Institutional Changes

Our organization's policy since 2001 is to build all homes to Energy Star standards. We have built 605 Energy Certified home in that time. We made this change because Energy Star standards enable our home owners to have a more affordable home which means to our home owners more disposable income. Increased disposable income means a higher standard of living. Our home owners report paying as much as \$300.00 per month for electricity before moving into a Houston Habitat home. The reduction to \$75/month represents a significant increase in disposable income. Our home owners make about \$35,000 for a family of 4.

We also take part in the energy rebates offered by CenterPoint Energy, Houston, TX. The rebates are based on the HERS score for each home. The lower the HERS score the higher the energy rebate. We use the rebate to offset the cost of Energy Star components we use in building our homes.

Housing Affordability

Houston Habitat for Humanity has grown to be among largest and most productive of the 1,800 regional U.S. affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International. Our affordable home building serves the 60% and below of the adjusted median income families for Houston, TX. This is an income of \$35,000 for a family of 4. Houston Habitat develops land for new single-family home communities. Our partner families put in 300 hours of sweat equity to qualify and buy their homes. They purchase the homes with an interest free mortgage that provides a monthly payment near \$550. This is less than average monthly rentals cost in the area. We build affordable homes by bringing together those with resources, such as funds, labor and material and our partner families to build simple, decent, energy efficient homes.

Outreach and Education

Houston Habitat for Humanity shares its acquired knowledge with other Habitat affiliates. We demonstrate how to build efficiently and which vendors can help them economically build to Energy Star standards.

We have several different training sessions with our home owner so that they fully understand the Energy Star components of their home. They have a scheduled 1 hour walk through in their home where all Energy Star components are demonstrated. The home owners are also given a maintenance manual which explains the components and how to maintain them.

We use the Energy Star logo on our web site www.houstonhabitat.org, and all literature we print and distribute.

Optional Criteria

All 34 Houston Habitat home, built in 2012 were built to the EPA airPlus and WaterSense guidelines. They were also Green Built certified by Gulf Coast Green Build in Houston, TX.